



National Retail Federation

NEWS RELEASE

The Voice of Retail Worldwide

Liberty Place, 325 7th Street, NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20004

800.NRF.HOW2 (800.673.4692) 202.783.7971 fax 202.737.2849 www.nrf.com

For Immediate Release

Contact: Ellen Tolley or Scott Krugman (202) 783-7971

Email: tolley@nrf.com or krugmans@nrf.com

ATF AGENT PRESENTED NRF'S LAW ENFORCEMENT RETAIL PARTNERSHIP AWARD -Agent Travis Moran to receive award at NRF Loss Prevention Conference-

Washington D.C., June 13, 2005 – A Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) agent, who performed above and beyond the call of duty in his pursuit of jewelry thieves, has been awarded this year's National Retail Federation (NRF) Law Enforcement Retail Partnership award. Agent Travis Moran will be presented with the award at the NRF Loss Prevention Conference in San Diego, California on Tuesday, June 28. Agent Moran was nominated by Clifford Bennett, Regional Loss Prevention Manager, Zale Corporation.

The Crime

In 2001, four individuals entered a Zale's Jewelry Outlet store brandishing handguns and demanding jewelry, cash and the store's closed circuit television videotape from the employees. This resulted in a theft of \$125,000.00 worth of jewelry and cash. Over the next six months, six similar armed robberies were committed, resulting in over \$2.5 million dollars in losses by Zale Corporation and other jewelry retailers.

In each of the ensuing incidents, the subjects became more confident and more physically and verbally aggressive toward sales associates.

In 2002, another Zale's Jewelry Outlet store in Leesburg, Virginia experienced two armed robberies with a combined loss of \$945,112 that were believed to be committed by the same group. According to police, more than \$5 million total was stolen during the string of robberies. During the thefts, money was wired across state lines to cover expenses like hotel rooms and bond fees when some of the codefendants were arrested.

The Investigation

Agent Moran became aware of the thefts and was alarmed at the size of the losses and the group's treatment of the sales associates. Based on his interviews and reports with law enforcement authorities and victims of the Leesburg robberies, Agent Moran initiated a federal investigation, despite not having any solid leads from any of the previous incidents' police reports. At the beginning of the investigation, Agent Moran learned of a credit application, with false information, that was completed at the first armed robbery.

Over the next 1-½ years, he followed his instinct that the armed robbers were from the Atlanta, GA. area. Agent Moran developed his leads through contacting and traveling to the multiple local police jurisdictions, visiting neighborhoods where he conducted numerous interviews, examined dozens of documents and thousands of cellular telephone records throughout the Southeast and obtained forensic video assistance from the NASA Space Flight Center.

Through his determination and systematic efforts, Agent Moran identified and arrested seven career violent offenders and uncovered a “fence operation.” The group was identified as having committed more than 15 jewelry store robberies and a pawn shop robbery on the Eastern seaboard, resulting in losses totaling over \$6.6 million dollars in jewelry, cash and guns. Additionally, the groups’ robberies left a trail of over 30 victims of violent crime whose lives have been permanently altered. Moreover, Agent Moran’s discovery of the fencing operation shed much needed light and attention on the underground “black market” jewelry operations that feed the illegal thefts and robberies of legitimate jewelry retailers.

The Result

Agent Moran has spent 3 years pursuing the arrest and successful prosecution of the seven individuals. Fourteen total counts have been brought against the individuals. Each has been charged with a variety of federal violations, ranging from conspiracy to obstructing commerce by robbery, use of a firearm during a crime of violence, interstate travel in aid of racketeering and money laundering. Currently, six members of the group have pled guilty in the United States District Court in Virginia, and have received sentences ranging from 17 to 34 years in jail, respectively, and ordered to pay approximately \$1 million dollars each in restitution.

“Without Agent Moran’s commitment to the investigation, these criminals would still be a threat to other retailers,” said Tracy Mullin, NRF President and CEO. “His actions are a perfect example of the important role that law enforcement plays in protecting our community.”

The **National Retail Federation** is the world's largest retail trade association, with membership that comprises all retail formats and channels of distribution including department, specialty, discount, catalog, Internet and independent stores as well as the industry's key trading partners of retail goods and services. NRF represents an industry with more than 1.4 million U.S. retail establishments, more than 23 million employees - about one in five American workers - and 2004 sales of \$4.1 trillion. As the industry umbrella group, NRF also represents more than 100 state, national and international retail associations. www.nrf.com.

###